

Re: Back to the moon? When?

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- *From:* John Schilling <schillin@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx>
 - *Date:* Fri, 09 Nov 2007 11:12:13 -0800
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On Fri, 09 Nov 2007 03:31:06 -0800, Ian Parker <ianparker2@xxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

On 9 Nov, 04:22, "Erich Kohl" <ek...@xxxxxxxxxxxxxx> wrote:

Hi everyone,

First and foremost, let me just say that I do believe that the United States was actually on the moon.

However, I am in a debate with someone who wants to know why it's taking us (or anyone else for that matter) so long to go back there. After all, if it was done once before with 1960's technology and know-how, what's causing the delay in the expedition this time?

My theory is that it must have something to do with politics and budget, combined with the fact that it might not be as high of a priority as it once was when the U.S. was in an overt space race with the Soviet Union.

Any enlightenment that can be offered will help, because I'm not sure how else to steer my argument.

Most of the other responses have been about the management of NASA. I think they have a point but there is one very fundamental reason. This is the fact of sophisticated computing and the advance of AI. If you can gain all the information you need by robotic probes what is the point of sending humans, risking lives etc etc?

The point is, A: human lives are *meant* to be risked, on account of they are each and every one of them guaranteed to be lost whether you risk them or not, and B: humans are roughly a thousand times better than the best contemporary robots at doing the sort of things space scientists care about (and better still at doing the sorts of things politicians care about), so sending them off to do space science and

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whatnot is a really amazingly good way to risk a human life.

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*John Schilling * "Anything worth doing, *

*Member:AIAA,NRA,ACLU,SAS,LP * is worth doing for money" *

*Chief Scientist & General Partner * -13th Rule of Acquisition *

*White Elephant Research, LLC * "There is no substitute *

*schillin@xxxxxxxxxxxxx * for success" *

*661-718-0955 or 661-275-6795 * -58th Rule of Acquisition *

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